

China teaches Viet Nam a lesson

China began withdrawing its troops from Viet Nam on March 5, successfully completing its counter-attack. China taught Vietnamese authorities and the Soviet social-imperialists a sorely needed lesson, that their aggression against China and other Southeast Asian nations will not go unchecked.

China's counterattack began on February 17, in response to months of Vietnamese armed provocations against China's border areas. Viet Nam and the Soviet Union also arrogantly thought they could freely invade and occupy Kampuchea.

Heavy blows to Viet Nam

The 17-day counter-attack dealt a heavy military and political blow to the Vietnamese authorities and their backers in Moscow. Chinese troops pushed through Viet Nam's frontier defense lines, destroyed seven missile bases and captured the capital cities of four northern provinces.

The Vietnamese authorities were forced to throw regular Vietnamese Army divisions into battle after the frontier troops collapsed. Additional forces had to be pulled in from the 150,000 troops occupying Kampuchea. After two weeks, the Vietnamese authorities put the whole country on military mobilization. But the Vietnamese authorities still took a bad beating. China inflicted over 19,000 casualties on Vietnamese military forces, and put three regular divisions out of action.

On March 3, after several days of heavy fighting, Chinese troops took the city of Lang Son, a key link to Hanoi. Chinese forces also cut off Highway 1 leading south to Hanoi. After these victories, China began to withdraw its

troops as it had stated previously.

A Chinese government statement on March 5 announcing the withdrawal reiterated that China "does not want a single inch of Vietnamese territory" but warned that China "reserves the right to strike back in self-defense in case of a recurrence of such Vietnamese activities (incursions into China—*ed.*)."

As it began its withdrawal, the Chinese government called again upon Hanoi to "speedily hold negotiations to discuss ways of insuring peace and tranquility along the border."

The Chinese statement also called for international measures to urge Viet Nam to end its aggression against Kampuchea.

International response

The Vietnamese authorities and the Soviet imperialists tried to turn international opinion against China in order to divert criticism from themselves. They launched a wild campaign accusing China of being "invaders" and "warmongers." But they lifted this rock only to drop it on their own feet.

Many countries considered the various fighting taking place in Southeast Asia to be interrelated, and continued to criticize Viet Nam's invasion and occupation of Kampuchea.

The Soviets and Vietnamese authorities were loathe to have any connection made to the Kampuchea situation. In late February, Viet Nam and the Soviet Union flatly rejected an ASEAN proposal to the United Nations Security Council which called on "all parties to the conflict" in Indochina to withdraw their military forces. Viet Nam's blatant refusal to withdraw its own troops from Kampuchea exposed its responsibili-

ty for the conflict. Now that China has ended its attack, Viet Nam stands even more exposed.

Example of standing up to aggression

Since China's counterattack, Chinese inhabitants of the border areas were able to return to their villages for the first time in months. Primary schools reopened. The people know that they are now safe from Vietnamese armed attacks.

Viet Nam will have to think twice before attacking China again. China's actions have shown the Soviets and Vietnamese that they cannot get away with wanton aggression and expansionism.

Kampuchea people's w

It has been two months since invading Vietnamese troops overran Kampuchea (Cambodia) and set up their puppet "Revolutionary Council" government in Phnom Penh. For a self-proclaimed "liberation" army, they have received an extremely hostile welcome from all sectors of the Kampuchean population.

Due to a larger army and technically superior weapons, the invaders have been able to occupy the cities and largely control the highways. But because of sustained resistance by the Kampuchean Revolutionary Army (KRA), the occupation has not been easy, and 50,000 additional Vietnamese troops have been sent into Kampuchea.

Even this hasn't been enough to secure the countryside or